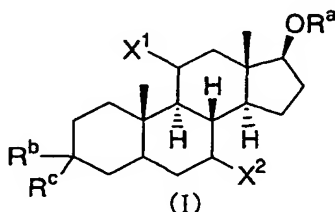


**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A compound represented by the general formula (I), pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or prodrugs of the compound or its salts:



~~wherein X<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom and X<sup>2</sup> represent independently a hydrogen atom or represents a group represented by the general formula (II)~~

~~-Ar-A-R<sup>1</sup> (II)~~

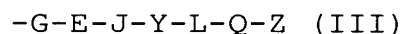
~~R<sup>a</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group of a hydroxyl group, R<sup>b</sup> and R<sup>c</sup>, when taken together with the carbon atom in 3-position to which they are bound, represent an optionally protected -(C=O)-, and the dashed line in combination with the solid line represents the formation of a single bond or a double bond;~~

in addition, Ar represents a single bond or an

aromatic hydrocarbon group, A represents a methylene group or -O-, R<sup>1</sup> represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted alkenyl group or an optionally substituted alkynyl group;

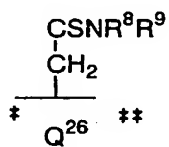
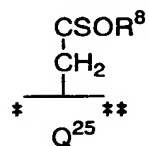
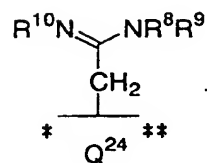
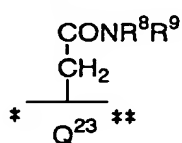
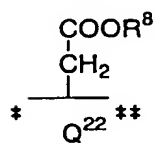
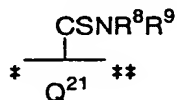
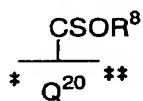
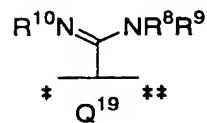
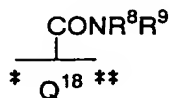
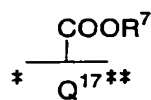
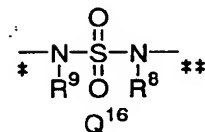
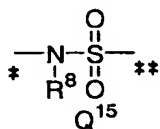
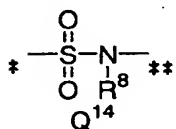
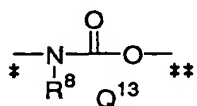
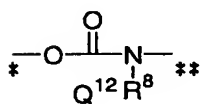
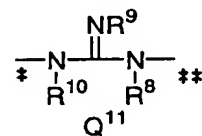
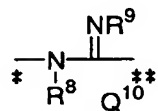
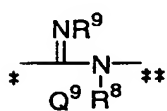
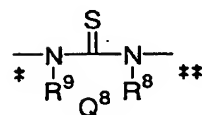
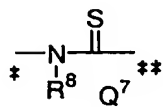
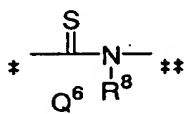
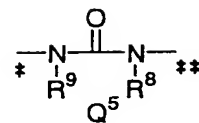
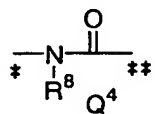
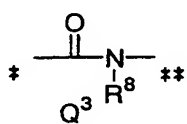
provided that when R<sup>a</sup> represents a hydrogen atom and R<sup>b</sup> and R<sup>c</sup> represent -(C=O)-, X<sup>2</sup> is not a propyl group or an allyl group [X<sup>1</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> are not a hydrogen atom at the same time].

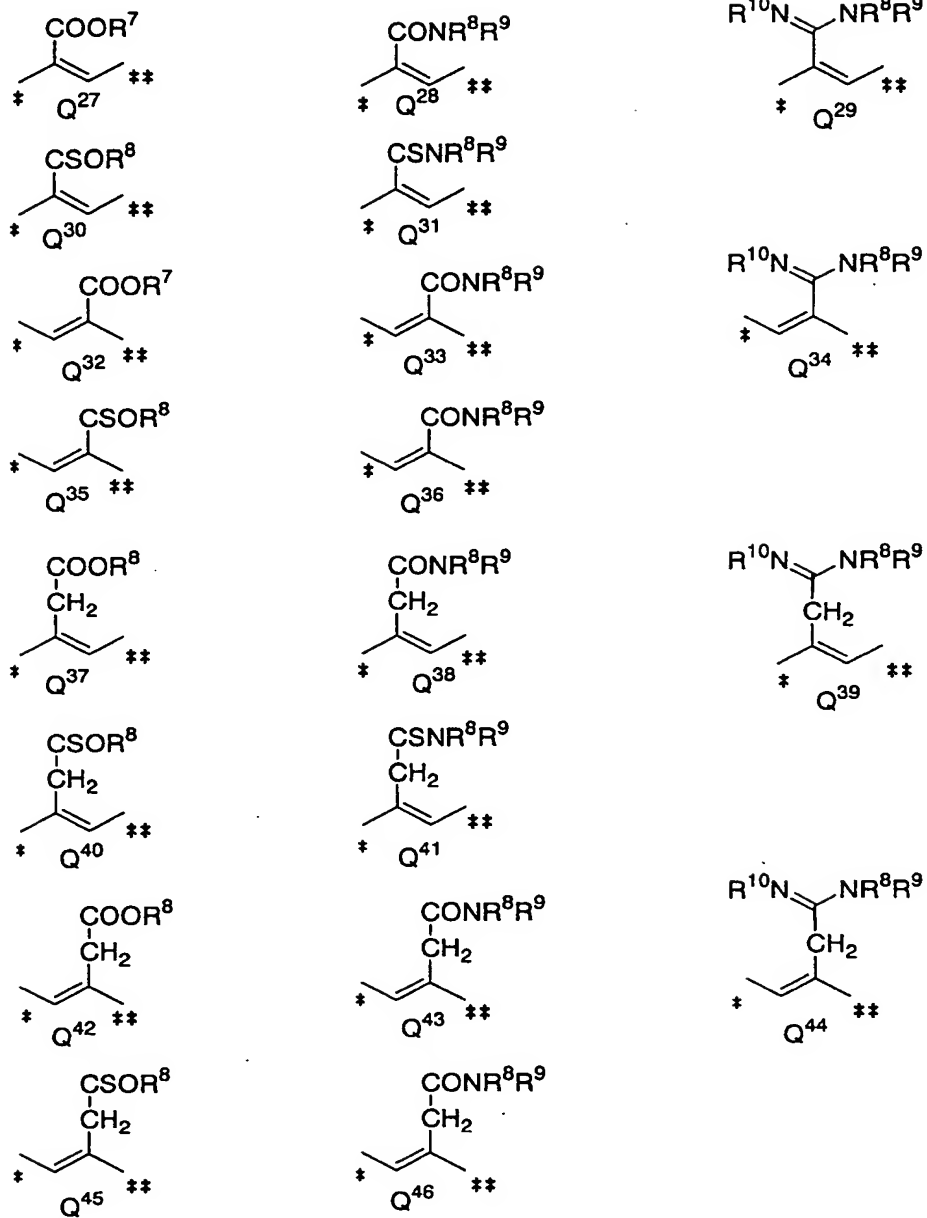
Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or prodrugs of the compound or its salts, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>1a</sup> [where R<sup>1a</sup> is the general formula (III)



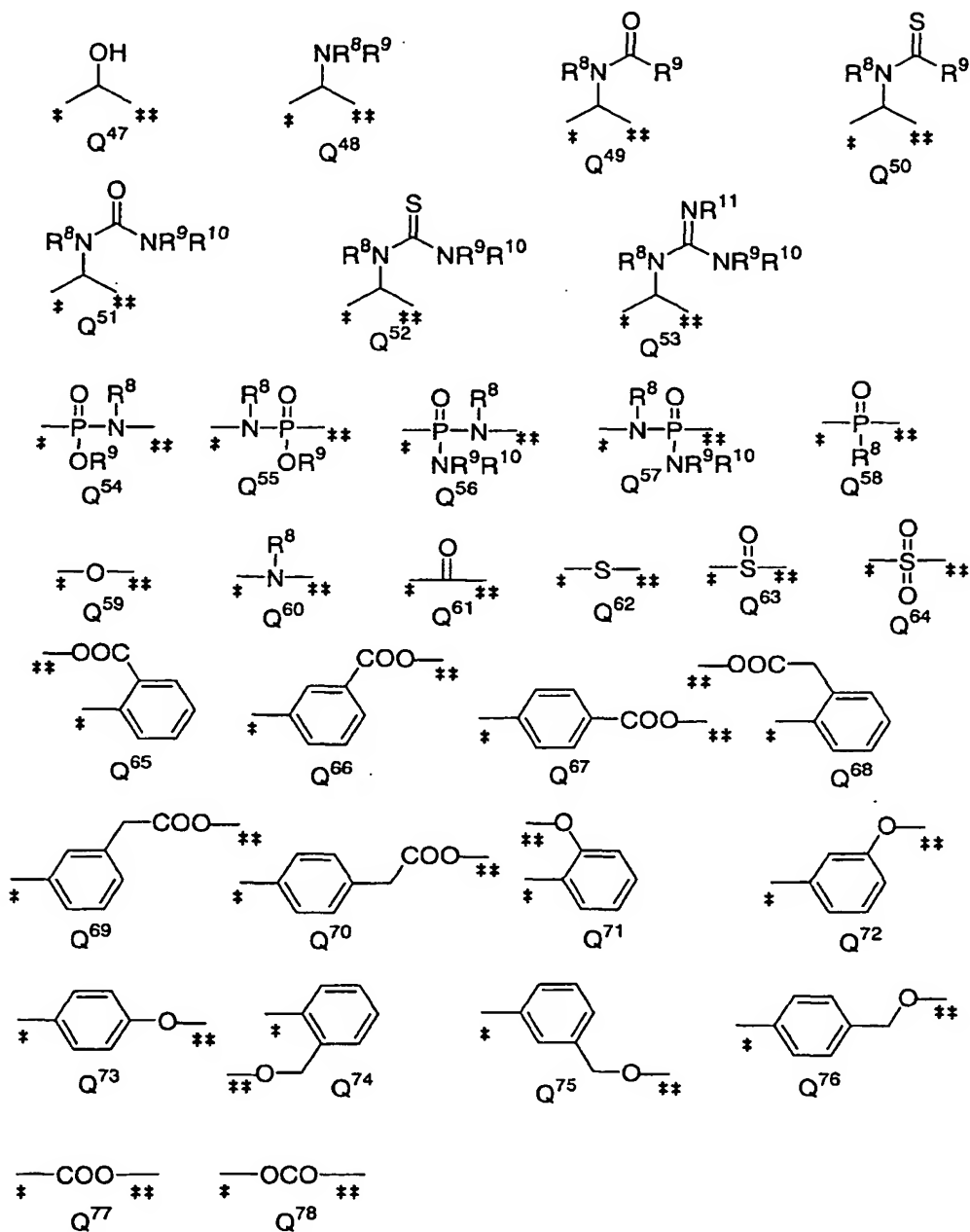
{wherein G represents an optionally substituted straight-chained or branched alkylene group having 1 - 30 carbon atoms, an optionally substituted straight-chained or branched alkenylene groups having 2 - 30 carbon atoms or an optionally substituted straight-chained or branched alkynylene group having 2 - 30 carbon atoms, E represents a single bond or -O-, J represents a single bond, an optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, Y represents a single bond or -O-, L represents a single bond, a straight-chained or branched

alkylene group having 1 - 10 carbon atoms, a straight-chained or branched alkenylene group having 2 - 10 carbon atoms or a straight-chained or branched alkynylene group having 2 - 10 carbon atoms, Q represents a single bond or one group selected from among the following formulae:





and



(where R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> represent independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chained or branched lower alkyl group having 1 - 6 carbon atoms, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a straight-chained or branched lower alkyl group having 1 - 3 carbon atoms), Z represents a hydrogen

atom, a straight-chained or branched alkyl group having 1 - 10 carbon atoms that may optionally be substituted by a halogen atom, a straight-chained or branched alkenyl group having 2 - 10 carbon atoms that may optionally be substituted by a halogen atom, a straight-chained or branched alkynyl group having 2 - 10 carbon atoms that may optionally be substituted by a halogen atom, -O-R<sup>d</sup> (where R<sup>d</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group of a hydroxyl group), or -COOH+, provided that when Q is Q<sup>3</sup>, the nitrogen atom and R<sup>8</sup> in Q<sup>3</sup> may combine with Z to form a heterocyclic group}}].

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of said compound or its salt thereof, wherein Q is Q<sup>2</sup> (where Q<sup>2</sup> represents a single bond), Q<sup>62</sup>, Q<sup>63</sup>, Q<sup>64</sup>, Q<sup>3</sup> (where R<sup>8</sup> has the same meaning as defined above), Q<sup>4</sup> (where R<sup>8</sup> has the same meaning as defined above), Q<sup>17</sup> (where R<sup>7</sup> has the same meaning as defined above), Q<sup>32</sup> (where R<sup>7</sup> has the same meaning as defined above) or Q<sup>27</sup> (where R<sup>7</sup> has the same meaning as defined above).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of said compound or a salt thereof, wherein X<sup>1</sup> is -Ar-A-R<sup>1</sup> (wherein Ar, A and R<sup>1</sup> have the same

meanings as defined above) and  $X^2$  is a hydrogen atom.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of said compound or a salt thereof, wherein  $X^1$  is a hydrogen atom and  $X^2$  is  $-\text{Ar}-\text{A}-\text{R}^1$  (wherein Ar, A and  $\text{R}^1$  have the same meanings as defined ~~above~~ in claim 1).

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Amended): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein the steric configuration of  $X^2$  in 7-position is  $\alpha$ -configuration.

Claim 9 (Amended): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Z is a straight-chained or branched alkyl group having 1 - 10 carbon atoms which optionally is substituted by a halogen atom.

Claim 10 (Original): The compound according to claim 9, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or prodrugs of the compound or its salts, wherein Z is a 4,4,5,5,5-pentafluoropentyl group.



Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein J is a single bond.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Ar is a single bond.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein A is a methylene group.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Q is Q<sup>62</sup>, Q<sup>63</sup> or Q<sup>64</sup>.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Q is Q<sup>3</sup> where R<sup>8</sup> is a hydrogen atom or Q<sup>4</sup> where R<sup>8</sup> is a hydrogen atom.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The compound

according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Q is  $Q^{17}$  where  $R^7$  is a hydrogen atom,  $Q^{32}$  where  $R^7$  is a hydrogen atom or  $Q^{27}$  where  $R^7$  is a hydrogen atom.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Ar is an aromatic hydrocarbon group and A is -O-.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein G is an optionally substituted straight-chained alkylene group having 2 - 15 carbon atoms.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, which is selected from the group consisting of  
17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -(7-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl)-5 $\square$ -androstan-3-one;  
17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -(7-(N-ethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl)-5 $\square$ -androstan-3-one;  
17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -(7-(N-(isopropylaminocarbonyl)heptyl)-5 $\square$ -androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-(N-methyl-N-butylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-(piperidinocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -androstan-3-  
one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-{N-(2-furylmethyl)aminocarbonyl}heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-{7-(N-methylaminocarbonyl)heptyl}-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-(N-methyl-N-ethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-(N-methyl-N-propylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-(N-methyl-N-isopropylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-  
5 $\alpha$ -androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-(N-methyl-N-benzylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-(1-pyrrolidinylcarbonyl)heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-(morpholinocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -androstan-3-  
one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[9-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[9-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[9-(N-methyl-N-butylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[9-(N-methyl-N-propylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[9-(morpholinocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 $\alpha$ -androstan-3-  
one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[10-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)decyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-{N-(2-hydroxyethyl)aminocarbonyl}heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-(N-propylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -androstan-  
3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-(N-benzylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -androstan-  
3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[7-{N-(2-phenylethyl)aminocarbonyl}heptyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-11 $\alpha$ -[9-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 $\alpha$ -  
androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[3-[3-{3-(N-  
methylaminocarbonyl)propoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5 $\alpha$ -androstan-3-one;

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[3-[3-{3-(N,N-  
dimethylaminocarbonyl)propoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5 $\alpha$ -androstan-3-

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Reply to Office Action of January 30, 2004

one; and

17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-7 $\alpha$ -[3-[3-{4-(1-

pyrrolidinylcarbonyl)butoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5  $\alpha$  -androstan-3-

one.